



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,116	08/17/2006	Margaret Anne Butlin	101358-1P US	1279
44992	7590	01/26/2009	EXAMINER	
ASTRAZENECA R&D BOSTON 35 GATEHOUSE DRIVE WALTHAM, MA 02451-1215				MURRAY, JEFFREY H
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1624				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/26/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/598,116	BUTLIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEFFREY H. MURRAY	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-9, 11 and 14-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/13/2007 & 2/7/2008.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to an election from a restriction requirement filed on October 8, 2008. There are seventeen claims pending and two claims under consideration. Claim 10 is cancelled. Claims 1-9, 11 and 14-17 have been withdrawn. This is the first action on the merits. The present invention relates to an improved chemical process for preparing intermediates. Certain of these intermediates are useful in the manufacture of compounds which are useful in the treatment of, for example, cancer, pain and cardiovascular diseases in a warm-blooded animal such as man, particularly compounds which possess endothelin receptor antagonist activity. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 8, 2008. Therefore this restriction is considered proper and thus made **FINAL**.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for domestic priority. The current application, 10/598,116, filed on August 17, 2006, is a national stage application of PCT/GB2005/000567, filed on February 17, 2005, which claims foreign priority to British Application No. 0403744.6, filed on February 20, 2004.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an Abstract of the Disclosure.

In chemical patent abstracts for compounds or compositions, the general nature of the compound or composition should be given as well as its use, e.g., "The

compounds are of the class of alkyl benzene sulfonyl ureas, useful as oral anti-diabetics." Exemplification of a species could be illustrative of members of the class.

For processes, the type reaction, reagents and process conditions should be stated, generally illustrated by a single example unless variations are necessary. Complete revision of the content of the abstract is required on a separate sheet.

5. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any of the errors of which applicant may become aware of in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a compound of Formula IV where P is an isobutoxycarbonyl group, does not reasonably provide enablement for all of the other P groups listed. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The test of enablement is whether one skilled in the art could make and use the claimed invention from the disclosures in the application coupled with information known in the art without undue experimentation. (United States v. Teletronics Inc., 8 USPQ2d 1217 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Whether undue experimentation is needed is not based on a

single factor, but rather a conclusion reached by weighing many factors (See *Ex parte Forman* 230 USPQ 546 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1986) and *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

These factors include the following:

1) *Amount of guidance provided by Applicant.* The Applicant has demonstrated within the application how to make the compound of claim 13. However, there is no working example of any compounds with P groups other than previously mentioned. These cannot be simply willed into existence. As was stated in *Morton International Inc. v. Cardinal Chemical Co.*, 28 USPQ2d 1190 “The specification purports to teach, with over fifty examples, the preparation of the claimed compounds with the required connectivity. However...there is no evidence that such compounds exist...the examples of the '881 patent do not produce the postulated compounds...there is...no evidence that such compounds even exist.” The same circumstance appears to be true here.

The applicants do not define a “P group” within the application. They only suggest that “A suitable value for P is, for example...” This is an open ended statement leading one skilled in the art to infer that P can be much more than just the few groups listed as non-limiting examples. Hence, with no formal definition of P within the specification, the term can be inferred as numerous groups that can attach to P. Applicants’ term is of such a broad scope as to not be completely enabled. Applicants should limit the claims accordingly.

2) *Unpredictability in the art.* It is well established that "the scope of enablement varies inversely with the degree of unpredictability of the factors involved" and

physiological activity is generally considered to be an unpredictable factor. (USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970). See *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166.

Chemistry is unpredictable. See *In Re Marzocchi and Horton* 169 USPQ at 367 paragraph 3:

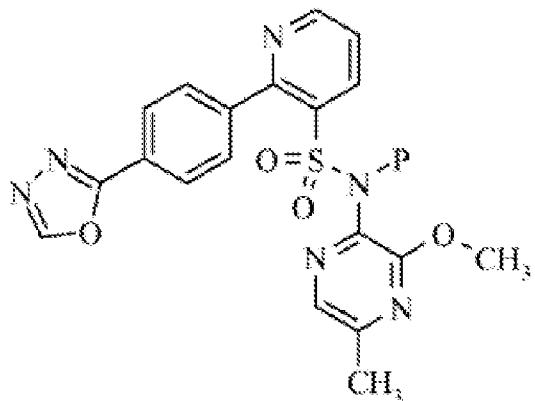
"Most non-chemists would probably be horrified if they were to learn how many attempted syntheses fail, and how inefficient research chemists are. The ratio of successful to unsuccessful chemical experiments in a normal research laboratory is far below unity, and synthetic research chemists, in the same way as most scientists, spend most of their time working out what went wrong, and why. Despite the many pitfalls lurking in organic synthesis, most organic chemistry textbooks and research articles do give the impression that organic reactions just proceed smoothly and that the total synthesis of complex natural products, for instance, is maybe a labor-intensive but otherwise undemanding task. In fact, most syntheses of structurally complex natural products are the result of several years of hard work by a team of chemists, with almost every step requiring careful optimization. The final synthesis usually looks quite different from that originally planned, because of unexpected difficulties encountered in the initially chosen synthetic sequence. Only the seasoned practitioner who has experienced for himself the many failures and frustrations which the development (sometimes even the repetition) of a synthesis usually implies will be able to appraise such workChemists tend not to publish negative results, because these are, as opposed to positive results, never definite (and far too copious)." Dorwald F. A. *Side Reactions in Organic Synthesis*, 2005, Wiley: Weinheim pg. IX of Preface.

3) *Number of working examples.* The compound core depicted with specific substituents represents a narrow subgenus for which applicant has provided sufficient guidance to make and use; however, this disclosure is not sufficient to allow extrapolation of the limited examples to enable the scope of the compounds instantly claimed. Applicant has provided no working examples of any compounds where the P variable is not that mentioned above in the present application.

Within the specification, "specific operative embodiments or examples of the

invention must be set forth. Examples and description should be of sufficient scope as to justify the scope of the claims. *Markush* claims must be provided with support in the disclosure for each member of the *Markush* group. Where the constitution and formula of a chemical compound is stated only as a probability or speculation, the disclosure is not sufficient to support claims identifying the compound by such composition or formula." See MPEP 608.01(p).

4) *Scope of the claims.* The scope of the claims involves all of the thousands of compounds of the following formula:



thus, the scope of claims is narrow but for a broad sweeping definition of P.

5) *Nature of the invention.* The present invention relates to an improved chemical process for preparing intermediates. Certain of these intermediates are useful in the manufacture of compounds which are useful in the treatment of, for example, cancer, pain and cardiovascular diseases in a warm-blooded animal such as man, particularly compounds which possess endothelin receptor antagonist activity.

6) *Level of skill in the art.* The artisan using Applicants invention would be a chemist with a Ph.D. degree, and having several years of bench experience.

MPEP §2164.01 (a) states, "A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding each of the above factors, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation. *In re Wright*, 999 F.2d 1557,1562, 27 USPQ2d 1510, 1513 (Fed. Cir. 1993)." That conclusion is clearly justified here that Applicant is not enabled for making these compounds or compositions or treating the diseases mentioned.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 2nd paragraph

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The scope of "P" requires clarification. Applicants' examples in the specification are not limiting. Applicants have not defined these terms with reasonable clarity. See definitions on p.8 and 9 of the specification. Where applicants define terms with a special meaning, they must set out the special definition with "reasonable clarity, deliberateness and precision". Note *Teleflex v. Ficosa*, 63 USPQ2d 1374; *Rexnord Corp v. Laitram Corp.* 60 USPQ2d 1851 and MPEP 2111.01.

The terms are defined with non-limiting examples making them impossible to pin down. For example, when one states specifically that a term is a C₁-C₄ alkyl group, there are a small finite number of possibilities that exist in that set. One ordinarily

skilled in the art realizes and understands this. However when one states, "for example" and lists several alternatives, how can this be considered definite? One skilled in the art could instantly envision several groups that might qualify under this broad, vague definition. Applicant must narrow such broad terminology by either eliminating such a broad definition or by inserting the specific ring systems they wish to cover into the claim themselves. No new matter. Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 13 is free of the prior art. The closest prior art to claim 13 is Bradbury, et. al., WO96/40681, which teaches the compound of Claim 12 where P is a hydrogen, not a "nitrogen protecting group."

Conclusion

11. Claim 12 is rejected.

12. Claim 13 is objected.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey H. Murray whose telephone number is 571-272-9023. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 7:30-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors, Mr. James O. Wilson can be reached at 571-272-0661. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey H Murray/
Patent Examiner , Art Unit 1624

**/James O. Wilson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1624**